28 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Habib Mission--In a statement made before leaving for the United States and broadcast by IDF radio, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib said he is returning to Washington for consultations but will return to the Middle East next week to continue his mission. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said Israel will make efforts to allow the diplomatic initiative to continue despite its lack of success so far. He said the Syrians have recently called up tens of thousands of their reserve soldiers, have again strengthened their missile deployment, though not by much, and have issued "noisy and flashy declarations." Israel has reacted cooly to this, he asserted, but he admitted that the situation has worsened. A senior Israeli security source told Jerusalem radio that from Israel's point of view Habib's mission has failed since its primary objective--the removal of the missiles--has not been attained. However, IDF radio, citing Israeli newspapers, reported today that Begin promised Habib that Israel will not regard his return to the United States as a failure of his mission but as another step in the diplomatic efforts to solve the conflict. The radio said Begin entrusted Habib with a message for President Ronald Reagan in which he agrees to proceed with the political process despite the exacerbation of the conflict.

Arab Diplomacy--In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after his meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Lebanon said his country will give Lebanon 100 million Lebanese pounds for the implementation of civil projects and for humanitarian aid. Saudi Arabia's diplomatic contacts to defuse the crisis are continuing, he said, reiterating Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's recently stated opinion that the missile crisis has been artifically created by Israel to divert attention from the real Lebanese issue. The radio reported that after a Lebanese Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the Arab followup committee will probably meet in Lebanon early next week. A related radio report said its aim will be to implement the resolutions of the recent Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis. According to KUNA, a Lebanese Government official has disclosed that President Sarkis is to launch confidential consultations with the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to work out a plan to avert a major Israeli strike in Lebanon aimed at forcing the Lebanese Government to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

PLO Contacts, Khalaf Interview--The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi met in Beirut with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov. Damascus radio said PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. In a 25 May report on its interview with Fatah deputy leader Salah Khalaf, the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING quoted him as saying that an Israeli attack on Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley would spark a total war between Syria and Israel. According to Khalaf, a war would force the Soviet Union to throw its weight behind Syria to restore the Arab-Israeli balance of power and would run the risk of superpower confrontation. For that reason, he concluded, the chances of an Israeli attack have decreased, and the risk of war is now 30 to 40 percent. Khalaf predicted that if Israel were forced into a diplomatic retreat, Israeli Prime Minister Begin would probably try to save face by mounting major attacks on southern Lebanon, short of a major invasion, and by launching a campaign of assassinations against Palestinian and other leaders. According to MONDAY MORNING, Khalaf also said the PLO would be ready to discuss the regulation of the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, but only after a Lebanese national accord.

Syrian Warning--Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Begin's current emphasis on diplomacy, the daily TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, said Begin's change of tone may be an attempt to make the Arabs drop their guard and allow Israel to launch a military adventure against the Palestinian resistance or the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, or even against Syria itself, it would be a big mistake to rule out the possibility of an Israeli military adventure, TISHRIN warned.

Eytan Interview--In a Jerusalem radio interview Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan said Syria's recent military preparations are not those of a peacetime routine. He said the Syrians want to implement their longstanding promise to protect Palestinian forces in Lebanon against Israel. Israel is following the changes in Syria's military deployment and is preparing itself accordingly, he said. Eytan also said Israel will treat Libyan forces in Lebanon as "terrorists," just as it treats the Palestinians.

Gulf Summit

Working Paper--A working paper appended to the final statement issued at the close of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Abu Dhabi said joint cooperation is appropriate in view of the present circumstances in the Gulf region. The paper, transmitted textually by GULF NEWS AGENCY, noted that the Gulf states' location and oil resources make them vulnerable to international and political designs amounting almost to blackmail. It also detailed the responsibilities of five committees set up to advance the council's cooperation goals.

Bisharah Press Conference--According to GULF NEWS AGENCY, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held a press conference in Abu Dhabi in which he affirmed that the member states object to foreign intervention, the establishment of bases and the presence of fleets and foreign influence in the Gulf region. He described the council as both strengthening and bolstering the Arab League but pointed out that in the council's charter priority is given to economic issues rather than politics.

Al Nuhayyan Press Conference--In remarks at an Abu Dhabi press conference, carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan said the Gulf states shall dispense with any foreign protection since they are capable of protecting themselves. With regard to the situation in Lebanon, the president said the Arabs will spare no efforts to prevent usurpation and aggression. Zayid also said he expects closer cooperation among the armed forces of the council states. Referring to the issue of the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, he said that there is proof that the islands are Arab but that the UAE will not try to seize the islands "in a nonbrotherly way."

Iran

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to Majlis deputies, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said that the Majlis is the nation's highest authority and that no one has the right to comment on something that has been approved by it and the Council of Guardians. In his speech, a recording of which was carried by Tehran radio, Khomeyni also warned that anyone who tells the people that the work of the Majlis and Council of Guardians is based on falsehood is corrupt and should be tried. He also cautioned that whoever finds something he does not agree with should correct his own views rather than expect the Majlis and Council of Guardians to change theirs. Khomeyni warned that the people support the Majlis, government and president of the republic only insofar as they follow the path of Islam. He said all orgnizations want to become Islamic but that it takes time. He also said he would oppose the president or prime minister if he oversteps has jurisdiction, and he noted that the limits of the Majlis should be defined.

Beheshti Interview--In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti said that the three-man committee investigating differences among the Iranian leadership should carry out its duties and that then the judiciary will act. According to AFP, Beheshti also characterized President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's call for a referendum on the leadership question as "weakening the Islamic Republic, the Constitution, the government and parliament" and charged him with twice violating the Constitution.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GULF COUNCIL'S BISHAHRAH HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN271446 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 May (GNA)--'Abdallah Bishahrah, secretary general of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, has said that the council is a historic accomplishment to rally the forces of the region's states in the interest of their peoples as well as the interest of the Arab and Third Worlds.

In a press conference held today at the end of the meetings of the cooperation council's supreme council in Abu Dhabi yesterday, the secretary general added that the council enjoys an economic power, in addition to the Gulf states' important strategic position, which draws the attention of the big powers. These facts, he said, give the council's states a strong voice and a great influence on relations among states on the world level. Moreover, the strength of the council's states stems from these states' similar political and economic systems and their similar cultural and social values.

The secretary general stressed that the council's member-states aim at keeping the region away from the big powers' rivalry and struggle.

He added: The unprecedented factor I sensed during the closed meeting at King Khalid's suite yesterday morning was that the leaders were determined to achieve their aims and to carry on work for the establishment of the council.

He said that the council is neither a confederal nor a federal one, but a cooperation council. We say this, he added, believing that the strength of this cooperation stems from the harmony we seek to achieve and which we believe is existing in all fields. He added that this council is not inspired by the big powers, but stems from the awareness of the region's peoples of the need to establish it.

He announced that during the past 2 days future economic activity was discussed and the conferees agreed to establish five committees on economic cooperation. He added that the secretary general was asked to call for a meeting of the finance ministers in order to reach a comprehensive and unified economic agreement to replace the present bilateral agreements.

Bisharah said that the heads of state discussed the political situation in the Gulf and its complications. They showed complete agreement regarding all the topics and reaffirmed their commitment to the Islamic Conference summit resolutions. These topics, he said, were related to Afghanistan, Palestine, bases in the Indian Ocean and foreign threats. However, he added, the heads of state did not go into the details of these topics because the council's aim was to concentrate on issues related to the Gulf and to assert its commitment to the Islamic Conference summit resolutions.

Bisharah went on to say: There can be no economic progress without stability. Therefore, the heads of state decided to continue to exchange viewpoints, to call the ministerial council into session to thoroughly discusss other topics and to submit a report about them to the second summit conference of the cooperation council to be held in Riyadh in November.

He stressed that the council would enjoy the interest of the world due to its economic power and its ability to affect the world economic situation. He said: Since there can be no economic stability without the industrial states' participation, there can be no stability without our council's participation; and if technology is important to the issue of dialogue between the north and south, raw materials and energy are considered basic and vital in this dialogue.

The secretary general strongly reiterated that the member-states object to foreign intervention, the establishment of bases and the presence of fleets and foreign influence, adding that the purpose of this is to keep the region free of and removed from any foreign intervention. He cited the contents of the final statement, which stressed that the region's security is the responsibility of its states.

He stated that the council cannot be separated from the Arab states, since it is not an independent group. Rather, we constitute an important tributary that flows into the main Arab river. We constitute an important power in the major course of Arab policy and believe that our council both strengthens and bolsters the Arab League.

He added that the council includes states which are members of the Islamic Conference Organization and are the cradle of Islam. The Prophet's cradle is also in the land of Mecca, which is considered the Kiblah of all Muslims. The council's importance does not only lie in its economic importance but also in its spiritual, strategic and political importance.

Addressing the reporters, he said: You cannot find leaders who can sit together at ease and agree on important issues within two hours. He praised the supreme council's meeting, saying that this was a wonderful beginning for this council, reflecting its determination and persistence to achieve all its goals.

In the course of his reply to a question on his contacting international and regional organizations, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah affirmed that he will conduct such contracts, saying: We do not live in isolation, nor do we live on an island in the middle of an unknown ocean.

He pointed out that the council's states have drawn the world's interest and refuse to be viewed as mere oil states and waterways. Rather, he added, these states insist on contributing to making humanity happy. He added that the role of the council's states goes beyond their being a group of states which constitutes a source for the production of energy. Rather, he pointed out, these states have a greater role to play and have sharp teeth.

Bisharah pointed out that the cooperation council's charter does not include anything to the effect that all member-states should give up their sovereignty. Rather, this council comprises independence and sovereign states. He further pointed out that the kings and leaders have left a Gulf region that is much stronger than it was.

He stated that the council's member-states are equal whatever their position, resources, foreign policy or affiliations might be. The presence of the general secretariat's headquarters in Saudi Arabia does not mean that Saudi Arabia has a stronger voice, nor does the appointment of a Kuwaiti as secretary general mean that Kuwait has a stronger voice than the others. We are all equal and the council's budget is equally divided among the states, thus affirming our equality.

The secretary general said that the council is not exactly political. He added that the council's charter does not specifically refer to politics. Rather, he pointed out, priority is given to economic issues.

The secretary general affirmed that the member-states will not change their firm policy on the Palestinian people's right and on bolstering and supporting the Syrian struggle and Lebanon. At the end of his press conference he affirmed that the council will not separate itself from the Arab world since the Gulf would then suffer and its security would be jeopardised. He added that the Gulf states want to participate in and bolster the Arab nation's issues, particularly the Palestinian people's issue and this people's restoration of their legitimate rights. Indeed, he said, these are among the priorities of our pan-Arab work.

VOP VIEWS BEGIN THREATS, SUDAN-EGYPT RELATIONS

NC271319 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1134 GMT 27 May 81

[Political commentary entitled: "Begin's Threats and Numayri's Invitation Are Two Faces of One Plan"]

[Text] Numayri's call for holding an Arab summit to be attended by Anwar as-Sadat, who concluded his visit to Sudan the day before yesterday, is as serious as the threats of the enemy's prime minister, terrorist Menahem Begin, to wage an aggressive war against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution.

Begin's threats and Numayri's invitation are two faces of one plan: The two are attempting to carry out a major role to free the Camp David accords and the makers of the Camp David accords from the deadlock.

Begin is using the missiles and his protection of the Christians as a pretext for a war that he thinks he could determine--a war against Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. These three parties represent the armed Arab front against the U.S. capitulationist plan as well as the nucleus and security of the Arab steadfastness against the attempts by Washington and Tel Aviv to impose the U.S.-Zionist peace upon the area.

However, Numayri is using Arab solidarity and his concern over the Arab nation as a pretext to call for convening an Arab summit to be attended by As-Sadat. Numayri's move is a political aspect of an attempt to free the Camp David accords and the makes of Camp David from the Arab political blockade which rejects and prevents others from falling into the abyss of capitulation.

Therefore, the goal will be a military strike by the enemy against the Arab military side fighting the imperialist-Zionist plan and a political strike by Numayri, freeing As-Sadat from his isolation based on the reality of the normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity, and consequently imposing capitulation upon the Arab area.

In view of the seriousness of Numayri's call and move upon the Arab cause, the Arab states are urged to abide by the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences in Tunis and Baghdad. Should the Arabs disregard Numayri and let his moves pass without punishment, does this mean that the whole question is who is going to hang the bell? Or is the pan-Arab commitment to confront As-Sadat's capitulation a national commitment stemming from the Arab states' rejection of Camp David and its capitulationist treaties and policies? We are with the latter possibility so far--the possibility of the pan-Arab commitment remaining unchanged. As-Sadat, who is facing increasing isolation within Egypt, will be a lesson to all. The Arab people's will must not be disdained. The current crisis in the Lebanese arena has established that the combat willpower within the Arab nation immediately awakens in the face of dangers. The nation, which is now challenging the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism through the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian fighters, is capable of going ahead with the fateful battle until the moment of dictating the Arab peace and the Arab willpower upon the plans of the enemies at home and abroad.

UAE

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S 27 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE

JN272045 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 May (ENA)--The following is the text of the press conference held today by his Highness the president:

Question: Reports say that the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait held different views during the Gulf summit conference. Can Your Highness explain what the situation was?

Answer: Views may differ, but the objective and the interest are one. There are different ways to achieve an objective. I would like to assure you that, judging by the meetings I had with my brother leaders and the opinions I heard from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, they all aim at general benefit and real and sincere cooperation among all these states. Opinions may differ even if the aim is one. Such differences are not suprising. What is surprising are differences that have ulterior motives that do not serve the common interest, destiny and happiness of all. As the saying goes, not every endeavor achieves its goal. In the end, everyone agreed on one opinion, which is cooperation, solidarity and cohesion in all fields--the economic field, the security field and any other field suggested by any brother or state, provided that such cooperation is earnest and sincere.

Question: Your Highness the President, you have stressed in your meeting the need to keep the area outside the world power struggle, remove foreign fleets and cancel military facilities. Does this apply to the facilities supplied by Oman and Bahrain?

Answer: This applies to everyone. Not resorting to any foreign power applies to everyone. This was heard from the Gulf states before the conference by everyone, far and near. The conference was the final bond. The Gulf states shall dispense with any foreign power or foreign protection. They are ruled out.

Question: The conference's final statement spoke of the rejection of foreign bases in the Gulf states, but it did not refer to the military facilities given to some powers. What is your position on that?

Answer: I have already said that the Gulf states can dispense with the protection of any foreign power. They are capable of protecting themselves with the means in their power and with the cooperation of their brothers, both those who attended the conference and those distant brothers who did not attend. The Gulf states do not have an obvious enemy. They do not seek to antagonize any quarter. This is their real position as I know it for certain.

Question: The Gulf summit's statement tackled the current serious and urgent topic--namely, the situation in Lebanon, the Israeli threats against Syria and the Gulf's supporting stand. How can this stand be put into practice--by holding an Arab summit on Lebanon?

Answer: Actually, whatever is needed by Lebanon, Palestine, Syria or any other Arab state is felt by every Arab in every Arab country. I would like to assure you that efforts have been concerted right from the beginning with regard to Palestine and the frontline states. With regard to Lebanon, the Arabs will spare no efforts to prevent usurpation and aggression. I would like to say that the Gulf states are in the forefront in aiding their fraternal Arab states.

Question: Some states, such as Somalia and the YAR for example, have expressed the desire to join the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. Is the door open for other states to join it?

Answer: Everything has a beginning. The foundation of a citadel or building begins with one brick, and God wanted the brothers in the Gulf states to take a step toward mutual assistance and cohesion among themselves so that all steps will be completed.

Everything has appendices and there must be some appendices after the foundation is laid down. Man should look at his conditions at first and eventually there will be other things.

The Cooperation Council's leaders alone undertook this cooperation and this is evidence of the fraternal ties that link them together in any predicament or domain. These states do not want to alienate or isolate any brother. The member states' conviction is that this cooperation should be a support for all brothers in any near or remote part of the Arab states. However, we have heard remarks that this council is in isolation from the Arab League, but the one who says this is biased and what he says is wrong. The Gulf states' cooperation is a backstop for the whole Arab nation and particularly for the Arab League. It is an effective backstop and power for this nation. It also consolidates ties with friends.

The Arab states should seek to rebuild themselves, establish cooperation among themselves and follow the example of the Gulf states in cohesion and cooperation, whether these states are in the Middle East or the Maghreb. All these facts constitute the foundations and reinforcements of this citadel. We bless all cooperation among brothers once and ten times and we sincerely call on our brothers to cooperate, because the rights of our Arab brothers cannot be restored except through cooperation and cohesion. God willing, this cooperation will be the beginning of good for the Arab nation.

Question: Does Your Highness expect a closer cooperation among the armed forces of the council's states in the field of armament, planning and training?

Answer: This cooperation is in its infancy and it is meant to achieve cohesion in all issues, predicaments and everything that a brother might need from his brother whether this be in the economic or military field; security or life.

Question: Does Your Highness expect a joint coordination of oil policy within the framework of the Cooperation Council?

Answer: We did not discuss this matter during the leaders' deliberations. It is left to oil specialists and experts. Once they agree on something, they will submit it to the heads of state.

Question: In the final statement you stressed the need to keep the region away from international struggle. It has recently been announced that Soviet war vessels are visiting Aden port. What do you think of this?

Answer: This is the thing which made us avoid foreign states whatever their size. This is also the thing which led to cooperation among the Gulf states. We have the right, first and last, to our lands and property. We also have the right to rally our efforts in order to safeguard our homelands, peoples and security. We do not want any small or big state to interfere in our affairs, nor do we want foreign states to clash with their adversaries in our territories, skies and seas. We must confront the one who antagonizes us. We reject and strongly condemn the states which quarrel among themselves on our territories. No Arab or Gulf state is in need of foreign states to interfere in its private affairs or to interfere with the aim of protection. We do not need any foreign state. The big powers' conduct is not satisfactory to mankind in general.

Question: French President Francois Mitterrand has announced that he will visit Israel and will send envoys to the Arab Gulf states. In light of this, how does your highness view the future of the Arab-French relations?

Answer: This is something depending on the two sides. If the French side desires to strengthen and improve relations with the Arab states and if this desire agrees with the Arab states' desire, there will be a benefit and an interest in strengthening and bolstering friendship between the Arabs and France.

Question: What is your stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war and on the issue of the three Arab islands that was put forth by Iraq as one of the basic conditions for having a settlement with Iran?

Answer: The hope was that the war would not continue until now. We also hoped that there would be no war. However, this is God's will. No one knows what is good or what is the alternative. The only result of war is unhappiness. It causes destruction and is against progress. In any case, we are affected by this war, as we also are by any confrontation between Islamic Iran and fraternal Iraq, because they are neighbor and brother countries. Despite the fact that we are not fighting, we are suffering from this war because both countries are our neighbors.

We shall be happy the day we hear that rapprochement, peace and a cease-fire have taken place between the two neighbors, Iraq and Iran, because these two countries are linked by common interests. We ask God Almighty to reconcile them and have them become an aid to each other and to Islam in accordance with the Holy Koran's dictum that a Muslim must aid his brother Muslim. We also hope that the efforts to halt the war and achieve peace will be crowned with success.

We and Iran are linked by relations stemming from Islam and neighborliness. Iraq is a fraternal country. Both are our brothers in Islam and Arabism. We are greatly affected by this dispute. We hope that this war will end because Iraq and Iran and any Muslim or Arab have nothing to gain. We also hope that each party will have its rights restored and be content with these rights, thus ending the troubles and the damages, and that the two countries resume their cooperation through thick and thin.

With regard to the issue of the islands, we have announced our stand and proof exists that the islands are Arab ones. We, however, shall not seek to seize these islands in a nonbrotherly manner. This is our intention and this is what we have announced to our neighbors since the first day. They know our stand.

This is a right and the individual must be committed to it, because this is a right of a state and a nation which cannot be relinquished. We do not want estrangement from our neighbors. The desire not to fight has been the only reason which made us pursue our rights in the manner we deemed best, in order not to give the enemy the chance to gloat about us.

Question: There are differences on the issue of the borders among Gulf countries. Were these differences discussed within the framework of the summit conference?

Answer: Cooperation has been established now and the council, which is made up of Arab Gulf countries' leaders, has been set up. What is the importance of one or two kilometers if they decide to cooperate? Thus, this issue will no longer be important nor have any effect because there is now a framework for cooperation. This cooperation will solve minor and even major problems. I hope that this will have no effect on the brothers, so that they will be an aid and support to one another.

Question: Gulf countries are granting assistance to developing countries. Will this assistance increase in the wake of the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

Answer: These matters were not discussed at the summit level among the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. They were left to the competent council bodies to be studied in light of the ideas that are put forth. The finance ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states will meet soon to discuss the joint scheme for foreign assistance.

Question: Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has called for convening an Arab summit in which Egypt would participate, despite the fact that President as-Sadat has not changed his stand on Camp David. Has this matter been discussed within the framework of the Gulf summit?

Answer: We have heard of something like that which has been reported by the press too. It has not been communicated to us by a president or an official. Egypt is a fraternal Arab country and in the end will have to come back and believe in its Arab character and its brothers. Any behavior, however, which is not approved by the brothers causes division. Egypt is a fraternal country and its leader is a human being. Human beings make mistakes and wise human beings should review their mistakes and try to avoid them.

We hope that Egypt will be close to its brothers and an aid to them, no matter how long this takes.

Question: Do you think that the Arab nation has a role to play in protecting the security of the Gulf, and can one separate the security of the Gulf from Arab security in general?

Answer: A brother usually helps his brother. It is natural that he help him if the need arises. This is not a strange or far-fetched thing. Both the small and large parts of the Arab nation must help one another in times of need and regardless of the differences in viewpoints.

Question: You have asked the United States to seriously work for the establishment of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Do you expect the United States to respond to this request, and what would your position be if it did not?

Answer: If the United States did not respond this time to the Arab request and failed to adopt a fair stand, it would not be the first time. The United States is a superpower, which considers its own interests and objectives. Therefore, we do not blame it for not seeking the correct path. But, as a friendly state we would be surprised if it did not adopt a fair stand. Its stand would be denounced by everyone, because injustice by the big power encourages others to emulate them. Such an unacceptable and unfair stand on Arab rights would be denounced by Arabs and non-Arabs. What is expected of the United States is to adopt a fair stand. We are not asking it to support the Arabs. We are only asking it to support justice.

Question: Do you expect Iraq to join the Gulf Cooperation Council when the Iraqi-Iranian war is over?

Answer: There is a time for everything. Iraq is a fraternal state and the cooperation council is composed of six leaders. They must consult with one another, and any decision they adopt must be a unanimous one. This is the best way to avoid any mistakes.

Question: France has concluded new arms deals with the Arab states. Will the Gulf Cooperation Council continue the armament policy pursued by the Arab Gulf states?

Answer: A friend who seeks friendship will remain a friend and dealing will continue with him. As you all know, the diversification of the sources of arms is useful so that we will not confine our dealing to one quarter and thus become subject to pressure.

Question: How do you view the future of the region in light of the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

Answer: As you know, cooperation existed before the declaration of the council. Gulf cooperation was not haphazard, it was preceded by meetings and studies. We only declared the establishment of the council after making sure that everyone wanted this cooperation because it was for the general good. Thus, we have established the council and we hope that it will be an additional strength for the Arab nation and proof to our fraternal states that this cooperation is for their benefit. We also hope that the council will serve as a model for all brothers so that they may follow suit once they have seen the achievements of Gulf cooperation.

Question: Do you expect the Gulf Cooperation Council to be the nucleus for a confederation [ittihad kunfidarali]?

Answer: We are still at the beginning. The brother leaders might have other ideas. This point has not yet arisen. We must add to our achievements by working for it.

PDRY

'SOURCE' AT FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS SUDAN

LD261553 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] A responsible source at the PDRY Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

The PDRY has been following the current Arab situation with great concern. It believes it has begun to be marked by gravity and serious complication resulting from the intense and heightened imperialist-Zionist assault on the Arab region, its peoples and progressive forces and regimes.

The current developments in the Middle East represented by the feverish military activities of the imperialist and Zionist circles directed against Syria and the Palestine resistance and at partitioning fraternal Lebanon and aimed basically at liquidating the Palestinian cause, partitioning Palestine and weakening the steadfastness of Syria. The objective of all this is the implementation of the Camp David designs, the ultimate domination of the Arab region and its subjugation once again to the influence of imperialism and Zionism.

These hostile acts directed against our Arab peoples by the imperialist and Zionist circles are moving in parallel with the attempts of certain Arab regimes to help salvage the Camp David accords, and subsequently to join their stand against the objectives of the Arab peoples and their aspirations and hopes to liberate their occupied terroritories, to affirm the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to establish their Palestinian state on their own territory under the PLO leadership.

Today Numayri's regime is at the forefront of these regimes' attempts. It has begun by restoring relations with the Egyptian regime by receiving As-Sadat during his recent visit to Sudan and by calling for reconciling the differences between the agent Egyptian regime and the Arab countries without affecting the treacherous agreements and their serious consequences for the region.

Steps such as those taken by President Numayri must be considered as part of the American-Zionist attempts to implement the Camp David designs and to strike at the Arab solidarity achieved against those agreements. This is an attempt by the Sudanese regime to drag other Arab countries into supporting the Camp David policies.

The steps which the Sudanese regime was emboldened to take mean the ultimate abandonment by Sudan of the decisions of the Arab summit conferences relating to the boycotting of As-Sadat's regime politically, diplomatically and economically. They also mean inciting other Arab states to abandon their commitments and go against the decisions adopted unanimously at those conferences, particularly the Baghdad summit.

The PDRY Government condemns this step which the Sudanese regime was emboldened to take and considers it a step in the direction of the activities of the Camp David parties. It will ask the Arab League council to convene promptly to adopt political, diplomatic and economic measures against Numayri's regime, which violated its commitments and went against the Arab summit decisions and Arab unanimity.

TRIPARTITE MEETING ON SINAI FORCE HELD 27 MAY

NC271845 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)--The fourth and last session of the first meeting on the political, legal and military level among Egypt, Israel and the United States to discuss the question of the multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai after the Israel withdrawal on 25 April 1982 will be held tomorrow morning. A statement will be issued on the results of the meeting.

The three delegations held a session this evening to discuss the issue. The joint military and legal committee emanating from the tripartite meeting held two sessions which lasted from the morning until tonight.

Egyptian delegation member to the tripartite discussions, 'Amru Musa said that the discussions which took place at the joint subcommittee were useful and that they were held in a good climate and on the basis of the principles and aims which the Egyptian delegation expounded yesterday and which must govern the agreement on the multinational force. He added that the results and the proposals reached, as well as various documents, will be submitted to the general session, which will be held at 1000 tomorrow.

MENA has leared that this first meeting among the three sides will be followed by another meeting next month, the venue of which will be determined tomorrow. To discuss the points requiring a further discussion and then move to the stage of laying down the principles and aims to pave the way for the final preparation of the agreement and its endorsement. This agreement will be considered as a supplement to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE CITED ON NDJAMENA MEETING

NC231705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)--The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has characterized the meeting held in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena, attended by some African states along with Libya, which is occupying Chadian territory, as an acceptance by a minority group of African states of a policy denounced by all African states--namely, disrespect for the territorial integrity and safety of the African states and interference in their domestic affairs as well as an attempt to scheme against the African people.

In a comment by a responsible source at the ministry today, the Foreign Affairs Ministry affirmed that the meeting creates an astonishing novelty in diplomatic relations--namely, that a minority of states should determine the fate of the Chadian people without referring to the Chadian people or to the neighboring states or to the African states.

The following is the text of the statement by the responsible source at the Foreign Ministry commenting on the meeting held in the Chadian capital of Ndjamena and attended by some states along with Libya, which occupies Chad's territory:

This meeting amounted to an acceptance by a minority group of states of a policy denounced by all African states. The meeting was inconsistent with the OAU Charter and with the Lagos and Lome conferences concerning respect for the territorial integrity and safety of the African states and noninterference in their domestic affairs as well as an attempt to scheme against the African people.

We are more astonished by the fact that Libya was joined at this meeting by some African states that are well aware of and whose representatives know that Al-Qadhdhafi's forces are occupying Chadian territory. Egypt had hoped that this small number of states would respect the resolutions adopted in Lagos and Lome condemning and denouncing the Libyan interference. If there is a comment to be made, then the meeting is a precedent in two extremely important matters:

1. That the meeting on a matter concerning many African states was restricted to a limited number of states, although no one knows the criterion for selecting this small number for the N'djamena meeting.

2. That it created an unprecedented novelty in diplomatic relations in the post-independence African world. This astonishing novelty is that a minority of states should determine the fate of the Chadian people without referring to them or to the neighboring states or the African states. Hence, they will attempt to impose a fait accompli upon the OAU community to accept it even if it contradicts the OAU Charter and its established resolutions.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HOSTS KNESSET DELEGATION

NC272044 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)--People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib has emphasized that President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative of visiting Jerusalem in 1977 has transcended the past and its vestiges and looked boldly toward a better future for all the peoples in the region.

In a speech he delivered tonight at a dinner banquet he hosted in honor of the Israeli Knesset delegation now visiting Cairo, the People's Assembly speaker said that this meeting was one of the fruits of the peace policy, the banner of which has been raised by President as-Sadat.

Dr Abu Talib said: We have made good progress along the path of peace. Although the peace provisions are being faithfully implemented by both sides, the question of comprehensive and just peace has not yet completed its chapters.

Abu Talib added that President as-Sadat declared at the Israeli Knesset that our peace is not based on concluding a separate peace treaty with Israel, because the essence of the conflict in the area is the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian people have the right to determine their future by themselves and exercise their sovereignty over their land, including Arab Jerusalem.

Dr Abu Talib stressed that the call for a durable and just peace based on the UN resolutions has become a universal call and a clear expression of the will of the world society and public opinion.

MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL POLICY ON AUSTRIAN TV

JN271817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Vienna, 27 May (INA)--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, arrived here from Geneva this afternoon to preside over the fourth session of the Joint Iraqi-Austrian Committee on Technical and Economic Cooperation to begin here this evening.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that he would convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to Austrian Chancellor Dr Bruno Kreisky on strengthening bilateral relations.

'Abd al-Karim said that he would discuss the possibility of promoting relations with Austria, particularly since these relations are largely supported by the two countries' leaderships.

In an interview on Austrian television, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim discussed the results of the Geneva OPEC conference. He said that Iraq had hoped that better results would have been achieved, particularly on the subjects of the oil surplus on the market and an agreement on a unified structure on prices. He added that what had been achieved is half the battle, as some member states have agreed to reduce production to remedy the oil surplus, thus giving Iraq and Iran the opportunity to increase their production to reach the level they need.

The Iraqi oil minister said that the door had been left open for Saudi Arabia to join the other OPEC members in reducing production and correcting oil prices. He added that Saudi Arabia had been ready to increase its oil prices to $34 a barrel. Libya and Iran, however, prevented this.

On Iraq's oil policy, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said: Our policy on prices is clear. We do not believe in increasing prices in large increments and we also oppose the question of freezing prices as long as inflation rates continue to be exported to us. He said that Iraq's policy calls for a gradual price increase that takes into consideration inflation rates and the exchange rates of the dollar. He pointed out that Iraq's production of crude oil before the Iranian war of aggression had reached 3.8 million barrels a day. The current circumstances and the situation on the world market, however, do not allow for production of the quantities with which we wish to supply the market.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that Iraq is capable of resuming production of the quantities needed by the world market if the war is halted and Iran responds to the call of right and logic. He added that, despite the current war, Iraq has not forgotten its friends and has supplied them with quantities of oil somewhat equal to the quantities it used to supply them with in the past.

On the question of securing oil supplies to Austria, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that, in light of the advanced relations and the common desire to develop them, Iraq will secure Austria's needs in crude oil even in the worst circumstances.

The Iraqi minister was welcomed at the airport by Josef Staribacher, minister for commerce, trade and industry, the ministry's under secretary and the Iraqi ambassador in Vienna.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 349

JN271703 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces continued their military activities against the Persian enemy and inflicted new losses on him in lives and equipment during the last 24 hours. Communique No 349 issued today by the Armed Forces General Command said that known enemy losses yesterday evening and today were 43 dead and 2 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 fieldguns, 12 vehicles, 3 observation posts, 5 ammunition stockpiles and 1 helicopter destroyed.

The General Command pointed out that it had been confirmed that the Persian enemy losses in the Nowsud region during the 5 days between 21-24 May amounted to 128 killed and 3 fieldguns, 1 armored personnel carrier and 1 ammunition stockpile destroyed, in addition to what was announced earlier. The text of Communique No 349 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. The results are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Three were killed and two fieldguns and one vehicle were destroyed opposite our units' positions in the Nowsud region.
B. Two tanks and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. Eight were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. One ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Sumar region.
E. Nine were killed and one armored personnel carrier; two vehicles, one carrying personnel; and one observation post were destroyed in the Dezful region.
F. Eight were killed and one fieldgun, three vehicles, one observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Shush region.
G. One tank; two vehicles, one carrying ammunition; and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
H. Our units hit enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 15 and destroying 2 infantry positions, 4 vehicles and 1 observation post.
I. An enemy helicopter was downed in the southern sector of the battlefield yesterday afternoon.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 43 dead and 2 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 3 fieldguns, 12 vehicles, 3 observation posts, 5 ammunition stockpiles and 1 helicopter destroyed.

II. It has been confirmed that enemy losses on 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 May 1981 as a result of our units' activities in the Nowsud region were 128 killed and 3 fieldguns, 1 armored personnel carrier and 1 ammunition stockpile destroyed, in addition to the losses announced then.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Two vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 May 1981

PRESIDENT TOURS SOUTHERN MILITARY SECTOR

JN251545 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has spent the last few days visiting the military operations theater in the southern sector. The president toured the forward combat positions in the southern sector where he met with the commanders of the military formations. He was also briefed on the military situation and on the brilliant victories the Iraqi fighters are scoring over the Persian enemy. The president's talks with the commanders focused on the nature of the military operations in this sector and on matters pertaining to planning, mobilization and supplies.

President Saddam Husayn expressed the admiration of the political command and that of the Iraqis for the Iraqi fighters' unique courage and heroism in waging the battles in defense of sovereignty against the Persian enemy.

Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, and the chief of staff have accompanied the president in some stages of his tour.

President Saddam Husayn also visited the villages and countrysides of the governorates of Basra, Maysan and Wasit where he inspected the peasants' social and agricultural conditions.

SYRIA ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING ARMS INTO IRAQ

JN271150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)--The papers published here today call for a united Arab stand to condemn the Syrian regime and its conspiracies against Iraq and the Arab nation. Commenting on the incident announced in Turkey regarding the seizure of large quantities of arms which were on their way from Syria to Iraq, the papers say that this incident should not be allowed to pass in peace and indifference. The papers stress that the exposure of this incident should be used as a yardstick to judge Hafiz al-Asad's regime and its recent practices in Lebanon and the fabricated missile crisis.

ATH-THAWRAH says: This fresh treasonous stand comes within the context of the Syrian regime's conspiratorial practices against our country. This regime has become the tool for active plotting against our country and the Arab nation. At a time when Hafiz al-Asad is stridently proclaiming his concern for the Arab land, making excuses for the confrontation of the Zionist entity and clamoring stridently, he is concluding deals with Begin and Philip Habib, extending the mandate of the UN forces in the Golan and applying all his weight to conspire against our steadfast country by sending arms and funds to implement his sabotage activities against our people, who are waging the battle of national and pan-Arab honor and dignity against the Persian enemy. The attempt to smuggle arms into Iraq and other cheap and base conspiratorial attempts will be crushed upon the steel wall of our triumphant revolution, which stands as a lofty bastion against the desperate attempts of the Arab nation's enemies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The agent Syrian regime was not satisfied with its exposed collusion with the racist regime of ignorant Persians and its treasonous cooperation against our struggling country. The evil and base rancor of this regime are driving it to adopt base and exposed methods in its desperate attempts to harm our struggling people by smuggling heavy arms and war material a few days ago across the Iraqi-Syrian-Turkish border area.

The paper adds: This conspiratorial deed did not surprise Iraq and will not surprise the honest sons of the Arab nation, since the masses of our nation know that this regime is wallowing in the rotten swamps of apostasy and adopting the vilest methods to conspire against the Arab nation's will and the objectives of our great people through a series of disgraceful stands.

Al-JUMHURIYAH warns: The rancorous Syrian regime will not stop at smuggling heavy arms to the desperate and treasonous quarters, just as it did not stop in the past at prostrating itself before foreign imperialist forces nor stop its conspiracies against the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The feelings of baseness and vileness of the ruling agent regime will continue to drive it to shamelessly resume its exposed conspiratorial and treasonous march.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says: The Syrian regime's plotting is not new and does not need clarification. It has vecome more than obvious in the wake of its dirty machinations against Iraq and its treasonous practices against pan-Arab issues and Arab existence. If treason can be graded into degrees, Al-Asad's regime deserves the highest degree of treason.

FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAYS VISIT TO FRG

For INA and DPA reportage on the official visit to the FRG of an Iraqi delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, including reports on the signing of a cooperation agreement and Ramadan press conference, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 26 and 28 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

AL-WAZZAN VIEWS ARAB CONFERENCE, HABIB MISSION

NC271444 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Upon leaving the presidential palace, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: The Arab foreign ministers conference decision to revive the Arab followup committee on the foreign ministers level is a good sign which indicates real concern with following our issue in Lebanon, which requires serious work. Today, we discussed this matter and made preparations for an early meeting of the followup committee on the foreign ministers level. The committee will probably meet in Lebanon at the beginning of next week, depending on the outcome of the contacts.

Asked about the significance of the U.S. envoy's departure for Washington, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I do not want to speculate on this matter. However, I remind you of a recent statement which I made in which I said that basically we are not waiting on Mr Philip Habib's mission before we do what will achieve our interests. Rather, we must primarily depend on ourselves as Lebanese. We must also primarily depend on our Arab brothers.

SAUDI ENVOY AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SYRIA, LEBANON

NC271344 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] At 0900 today, President Ilyas Sarkis received Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan joined the meeting at 0930. Discussions centered on current developments in Lebanon and the region. Following the meeting, which ended at 1000, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said:

[Begin recording] [Ash-Sha'ir] I conveyed to His Excellency President Sarkis the most sincere and cordial feelings from His Majesty King Khalid and from His Highness Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. I also affirmed to his excellency the true Arab stand which was adopted by the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis, particularly the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's stand toward Lebanon's ordeal, which we hope is nearing its end. At the same time, I informed his excellency the president that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, following directives from his majesty the king, has ordered the payment of 100 million pounds as assistance to various quarters. For instance, we will implement some projects in southern Lebanon, such as digging water wells and establishing health centers and some clinics there. This is considered a tender touch for our brothers who are standing fast in their fighting in the border area. At the same time, some of this money will go to leaders of spiritual organizations and to some charitable and social organizations. This is on the humanitarian level.

On the political level, the contacts are continuing. When I say they are continuing, I mean every 2 or 3 hours contacts take place between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its brotherly Arab states with the aim of defusing the explosive situation, stopping the bloodshed and preventing this tragedy from reaching its pessimistic end.

As I have understood, his excellency the president is seeking to convene the followup committee. The committee might hold its first meeting on the foreign ministers level in the next few days.

[Question] Among the signs of hope felt by the Lebanese is your return to Lebanon after a long absence. Is this hope justified and are you optimistic?

[Answer] I have returned to resume my post as ambassador of His Majesty King Khalid in Lebanon. I place myself at the disposal of his excellency the president. I will closely cooperate with the Syrian brothers through the Syrian delegate to the Arab League. I will also cooperate and consult with the Palestinian brothers. Perhaps in the next few days I will also hold several meetings with the various Lebanese parties without distinction.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, it is known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of his majesty the king and His Highness Crown Prince Fahd, has recently held several contacts with Damascus and with the U.S. officials regarding the missile crisis. What is the outcome of these contacts?

[Answer] The contacts are continuing. As the Saudi foreign minister, His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, has said, the missile crisis has been artificially created by Israel to divert attention from the real issue, which is first and foremost the Lebanese issue. We must do all we can to sincerely support the brothers in Syria, fraternal Lebanon and the brothers in the Palestinian resistance. [end recording]

PRESIDENT SARKIS PRESIDES OVER CABINET MEETING

NC271419 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] At 1200 President Ilyas Sarkis presided over a Cabinet meeting that was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers. Following the meeting, which ended at 1400, Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar Mussaykah read the following official statement: At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency President Sarkis briefed the Cabinet on the contacts now underway to hold an early meeting of the Arab followup committee in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers conference recently held in Tunis.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus then briefed the Cabinet on the discussions and deliberations that took place at the aforementioned conference. He also explained the resolutions issued by the conference, including those that deal with the crisis in the area and with Lebanon. He also briefed the Cabinet on the peripheral consultations he held with his colleagues the Arab Ministers, as well as on the talks he held with the French external relations minister in Paris yesterday.

The prime minister and ministers expressed their great esteem for the president and their rejection of the contents of statements published by some newspapers today. They highly appreciated his excellency's stand in ignoring these statements, thus dedicating himself to tackling the current grave and delicate circumstances.

Afterward, Minister of Public Health Dr Nabih al-Bizri briefed the Cabinet on the medical aid donated by Algeria, Morocco and the WHO, expressing Lebanon's gratitude for these donations.

Finally, the Cabinet discussed the bills and topics on its agenda, adopting the appropriate decisions regarding them.

OFFICIAL SAYS SARKIS TO HOLD 'CONSULTATIONS'

LD271352 Kuwait KUNA in English 1147 GMT 27 May 81

[Report by Mohammed Salam]

[Excerpts] Beirut, 27 May (KUNA)--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis is to launch a series of "confidential consultations" with leaders of Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to work out a plan that can "avert the loss of Lebanon" in case of a military confrontation between Syria and Israel here, a highly-placed government official said Wednesday.

The official, who refused to be identified, refused to disclose in details the nature of Sarkis' reported consultations, but explained that they were [words indistinct] "serious information" (?that) the Presidential Palace has recently received from an undisclosed source regarding "Israel's intentions in Lebanon."

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Arab world's richest oil-exporting nations, "can exert international and pan-Arab pressures to help safeguard the endangered future of Lebanon," the official told KUNA.

The reportedly serious information, according to the official, speaks of a "major Israeli military strike in Lebanon that aims at creating a new fact on the ground which leaves a unified Lebanon with no other option than signing a direct peace treaty with Israel or suffer internal partition or, in more clear words, disintegration and complete (?loss) as a sovereign and independent state."

The official made his remarks to KUNA shortly before heading for the hill-top Presidential Palace of Ba'boa to participate in the Cabinet's weekly session.

The official recalled that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin announced Monday evening his readiness to "immediately" sign a peace treaty with Lebanon. The Israelis, according to the official. "want to occupy large portions of Lebanon, both in the southern and central-eastern provinces, and refuse withdrawal from the conquered territory before signing a peace treaty with the central Lebanese authorities."

"If such a development took place the government would emerge as the big loser, because if a treaty with Israel was signed the Arabs would boycott the country as they had done to Egypt and the leftists may find themselves forced to declare a national mutiny and therefore split their area of influence from the rest of Lebanon and either delcare it an independent Arab state or annex it to Syria with the declared aim of liberating the rest of Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories," the official explained. "If the government refused to sign a treaty with Israel and agreed to leave large portions of the country occupied the right-wing Christians, for their part, may declare an independent state in their enclave and sign a treaty with Israel or launch their long-awaited war for liberating Lebanon from the Syrians, Palestinians and leftist under the pretext of depriving Israel of excuses to maintain its occupation of Lebanon," said the official who stressed that he is "very pessimistic."

EGYPT REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

NC271801 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] There have been reports today that the Egyptian Government has asked its educational mission to leave Beirut as soon as possible. A memorandum issued in this respect gives the names of members of the mission who work with the Arab University of Beirut. Informed sources attribute the cause of postponing the examinations of the engineering college in the Arab University of Beirut to the fact that the Egyptian teachers had been compelled to leave Beirut last Monday. According to reports tonight, the Egyptian authorities have detained in Cairo airport 150 Lebanese to investigate and examine the documents they carry.

AL-MURABITUN LEADER VIEWS CURRENT SITUATION

LD271405 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 May 81 p 11

[Interview granted by Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Independent Nasirites--AL-MURABITUN--to AL-WATAN correspondent in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] In light of the local and international repercussions of the Syrian missiles crisis in Lebanon, how do you view the present situation following the repeated Israeli threats and Syria's adherence to its right to defend its forces in Lebanon?

[Answer] First of all we assert the legitimacy of the Syrian missiles' presence in Lebanon on the basis of the legitimacy of the presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon. But the great uproar created over the question of the missiles is a joint Zionist-imperialist scheme aimed at creating excuses to continue Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. The introduction of Syrian missiles into Lebanon has come late in the day. However, it is a military matter concerned with the question of backing the ADF in their task on Lebanese territory and therefore the presence of the missiles is a natural matter, just like the presence of tanks and guns.

We as a liberation force regard the presence of these missiles as a fulfillment of a revolutionary policy during a historic confrontation undertaken by the liberation forces in the central arena of conflict, that is in Lebanon, where the introduction of the missiles was an inevitable step in the crucial confrontation with the Zionist and secessionist enemies and with U.S. imperialism.

[Question] U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib has extended his stay in the area several times in order to hold consultations regarding the missiles issue and the Israeli threats. How do you evaluate the international situation and particularly the U.S. stand toward the present crisis?

[Answer] The U.S. stand toward the present crisis is suspect and hostile. This is evident in the mission of President Reagan's personal envoy, Habib. This stand confirms that U.S. Middle East policy is subject to Zionist policy: Any U.S. move in the Middle East could only be in the service of the Israeli enemy and contribute to bolstering its expansionist and aggressive policy at the expense of our cause and our territory.

[Question] There seems to be a confusion in the Lebanese authorities' attitude toward the U.S. envoy's mission. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] The Lebanese authorities' attitude toward Mr Habib's mission is not unified. Mr President Sarkis and some of his ministers and the secessionist front agree of many points regarding the U.S. envoy's mission and their stand agrees with the Israeli stand, especially regarding the Syrian missiles and the ADF, while the prime minister--the executive official in our democratic parliamentary system--and some of the ministers and the nationalist forces in general, including our movement, see that in certain parts Habib's mission serves the Israeli-secessionist plan.

[Question] Following the Lebanese-Syrian consultations with a view to reviving the question of national accord and the refusal of the forces dealing with the enemy to break their ties with him, how do you view the future of the Lebanese accord and do you think that the Lebanese authorities are capable of being the umbrella of such accord?

[Answer] We doubt the ability of the legitimate Lebanese authorities to achieve even the minimum basis for the creation of a genuine Lebanese national accord. This was made clear during the recent conciliation talks during which Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist forces positively and sincerely sought to give momentum to the Lebanese national accord. On the other hand, some of those in the legitimate authorities were confused, unclear in their stands and hesitant in shouldering their responsibility to oblige all the forces to adopt the 14 principles declared by the government.

[Question] You have had several contacts with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and Raymond Iddih [leader of the National Bloc Party]. Were these contacts in connection with the new political alliances that are expected to emerge in the Lebanese arena?

[Answer] Our relations with former President Sulayman Franjiyah are based on national principles and ideas. President Franjiyah is a nationalist leader and a vanguard in national struggle. We appreciate the role of President Franjiyah and Raymond Iddih and the nationalist Christian leaders who, along with the forces in the Islamic fold, constitute the vanguard in confronting the plans of the partitionist-secessionist-sectarian forces. We are about to reach a formula that will encompass the entire national action within an effective and capable front. The task of this front will be to do away with the antinational logic of the secessionist front, which claims that the conflict in Lebanon is sectarian whereas in fact it is in order to prove the country's national character and achieve justice and equality for the citizens.

DAILIES SAY SYRIA WOULD CONFRONT AGGRESSION

JN280746 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 May 81

[The press review]

[Text] In a commentary under the headline "The Possibilities of a Military Adventure," the paper TISHRIN affirms that when the Israeli leaders talk in calm and moderate tones about peace and political methods of solving crises, it means that the entire world should exercise the utmost caution and vigilance against Israel's treacherous aggression. This has been proven by past experience with Israel's leaders and their schemes to implement aggression and so-called preventive strikes against the Arabs.

During the past few days Begin's tone has calmed down and he has begun to talk about patience and political and diplomatic efforts and expressed optimism regarding the possibility of solving the so-called crisis with Syria through diplomatic methods. The paper adds: Ultimatums and threats to attack and destroy have no longer been voiced in statements. The open insistence that U.S. envoy Habib reply to Israel's specific questions has also changed.

Two days ago, Begin talked about the alliance linking the United States and Israel, pointing out that their relations are neither characterized by the extended hand of a poor man seeking alms nor dependence on others. Rather, he added, these relations are mutual and their alliance and opportunities are compatible. The paper points out that such a change in the tone of Begin and his aides attracts attention and necessitates a higher degree of alertness and caution, since although such a change could be a result of the political defeat of Israel's stands in the region and world and a rejection of Begin's plan of aggression by the various sectors of world public opinion, it could also be an attempt to (?drug) Arab and international caution and to spread languor in the Arab areas surrounding Israel and the areas against which the aggression would be directed, thereby paving the way for a limited or large-scale military adventure against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance or the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, or even against Syria.

TISHRIN adds: Pre-emptive strikes or preventive wars are part of the Israeli strategy and constitute an extension of Israel's policy, which is based on either using or threatening to use force, and of the nature of the aggressive racist Zionist entity. Thus, under the circumstances, ruling out the possibility of Israel resorting to a military adventure would be a big mistake and would render the required assessment of the situation impotent and incapable of comprehending the possibilities and, consequently, unable to adopt the necessary procedures and arrangements in order to face all possibilities in the right way and at the right time.

Objectivity also necessitates taking many factors into consideration that are preventing Israel from carrying out a military adventure of unknown scope and consequences. However, everyone is aware that such an adventure would threaten international relations and world peace and stability. It is certain that any Israeli military adventure would be no cakewalk, nor would such it result in a cheap victory or keep Israel away from the fire which Begin might start.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says that ever since the beginning of the so-called crisis, Syria has been in the position of legitimate self-defense. It was Israel which fabricated the crisis; it was Israel which downed the two Syrian helicopters; it was Israel which threatened to launch a war; it was Israel which demanded the free use of the waters, airspace and territories of sovereign and independent Lebanon; and it was Israel which sent planes into Lebanese and Syrian airspace.

The Israeli aggression has never been as clear to world public opinion as it is today. World public opinion is aware that under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria wants and is working to achieve true peace. However, if Syria is compelled to repulse aggression, its reply will be commensurate with its potential, and the enemy must not underestimate this potential.

In the "Sawt ath-Thawrah" column, the paper ATH-THAWRAH says that for the second time in less than 24 hours the terrorist Menahem Begin affirmed that U.S.-Israeli relations go beyond consultation and alliance where the situation in the region is concerned. He affirmed that Tel Aviv and Washington are implementing joint plans, adding that Israeli-U.S. relations are now much better than they ever were.

Through such an assessment of the situation in the region and the stands on this situation, we see that the stand of our Arab masses and their steadfast elements, led by Syria, is the strongest stand, since it has been adopted in the defense of a just issue and legitimate rights as well as for self-defense. Syria is confronting continuous Zionist aggression directed against the Arab presence in general, that seeks to subjugate the region to complete the imperialist-Zionist control over it.

Thus, any negligence in confronting such a threat under any pretext or cover would mean capitulation and defeat. However, our Arab nation and masses reject capitulation and defeat, a rejection embodied in Syria's lofty stand and firm decision not to retract on this stand and to confront aggression whatever the sacrifices.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS

JN271242 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Damascus--At 1315 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, [name indistinct]; Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi; Salah Khalaf, Muhammad Ghunaym and 'Abd al-Jawad Salih, members of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Fatah Central Committee.

All aspects of the situation in the region and the requirements for bolstering Arab steadfastness in the face of the hostile schemes in order to defend the Arab nation's dignity and fate were reviewed.

At 1115 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] and Salah Ra'fat, Abu 'Ali and Abu al-'Abd, members of the DPFLP Political Bureau.

Discussion revolved around the latest developments in the region and the threats being directed against Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the national elements in Lebanon and, consequently, against the entire Arab nation.

Nayif Hawatimah stressed the need for bolstering the steadfast stand adopted by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also stressed the cohesion between Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

The DPFLP will celebrate the end of its second national congress and the announcement of this congress's resolutions during a mass rally to be held [words indistinct] next Friday evening at Damascus University auditorium.

RIF'AT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE FRONT MEMBERS

JN272146 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Ba'th Party Regional Command Member Comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad received today the members of the provisional command of the Lebanese national confrontation party.

Comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad explained Syria's firm and steadfast stand in confronting imperialist-Zionist schemes and our people's determination to pursue the course of Arab dignity and honor in defense of the Arab nation and to protect the Lebanese people and territory. The provisional command of the Lebanese national confrontation party expressed pride in the stand of heroism and glory that Arab Syria is adopting under the leadership of President Struggler Hafiz al-Asad and which is the hope of all the Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

The Lebanese national confrontation front [as heard] has issued a statement in which it announced the formation of a provisional command for the front. The command also called for convening a general conference, within a period not exceeding 3 weeks, of a new command because some of the front command members had disregarded national and pan-Arab interests and refrained from struggling in these dire circumstances through which Lebanon is passing at the hands of the Phalangist gangs, the agents of Israel.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES PALESTINIAN LEADERS

JN280805 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, yesterday evening received brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], Brothers Salih Ra'fat and Abu Layla, members of the DPFLP's Political Bureau, attended.

The discussion revolved around the current situation in the Arab region and the expected possibilities in light of the aggressive and expansionist imperialist-Zionist policy, which has moved to the stage of threatening peoples and reimposing hegemony over these peoples' resources.

The two sides observed that the Israeli-U.S. preparations and threats to launch a new attack on Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian people reflects such an aggressive policy. They reviewed the roles of the parties and masses' organizations in the Arab homeland in confronting such an attack and of the Zionist schemes.

They affirmed that with all its masses, organizations and various elements, the Arab nation is called on to use all its potentials to support the steadfastness of Syria and the Palestinian people, abort the attempts to liquidate the central issue of Arab struggle and strike at the imperialist positions and agents.

Al-Ahmar affirmed that the Syrian people, party and progressive national front under the leadership of Strugggler Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Republic and the party's secretary general, will remain steadfast. He pointed out that the Syrian stand on defending the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the Arab nation's issues is clear. He added that Syria is determinedly, courageously and heroically confronting aggression and will not allow Israel and the agent and imperialist elements to achieve their expansionist ambitions in our Arab homeland.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE SHI'ITE OFFICIAL

JN271645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] At 1530 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shamsaddin, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in Lebanon. The two sides reviewed the general situation and its current developments in fraternal Lebanon.

DAMASCUS RADIO: USSR REITERATES SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN281237 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Moscow--The Soviet Union has reiterated its complete support for Syria in its confrontation of the Israeli aggressive provocations and threats.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev also expressed the conviction that the Arab states must rally their efforts to convene a new international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the concerned sides, including the PLO.

The Soviet Union also expressed apprehension at the deteriorating situation in the Arab Gulf region.

It stressed the need for ending the Iranian-Iraqi dispute as soon as possible and settling mutual claims at the negotiating table.

It expressed its objections to the establishment of foreign military bases in the Gulf region, installing nuclear weapons there and all forms of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the region's states.

GRENADA DELEGATION LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR LIBYA

JN272011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Damascus--A Grenada delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard left Damascus for Libya this evening at the end of a 1-day visit to Syria. The delegation was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Bernard Coard made a statement to SANA in which he stressed support for the struggle that is waged by Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. He said that this struggle is backed by all the world's progressive forces. He stressed that Syria's courageous stand on the current crisis in Lebanon is not only backed by the Arab people but also by all the developing countries because this struggle is part of the world struggle against imperialism.

NEW ISLAMIC MAGAZINE BEGINS PUBLICATION IN EGYPT

LD271213 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 17 May 81 p 11

[Unattributed "Cairo Letter": "The Islamic Left"]

[Text] The first edition of the magazine AL-YASAR AL-ISLAMI [THE ISLAMIC LEFT], edited by Dr Hasan Hanafi, has been published. The first edition contains five basic studies, three of them written by Dr Hanafi. These are entitled "What Does the Islamic Left Mean," "Is Peace With the Children of Israel Permissible Under Shari'ah Law?" and "The Muslims in Asia." A study by 'Ali Shirbini is entitled "The Thinker and the Society," and the fifth and final study is entitled "Islam and Colonialism."

Discussing the magazine's policies and objectives editorially, Dr Hasan Hanafi says that AL-YASAR AL-ISLAMI's message is a continuation of the magazine AL-'URWAH AL-WUTHQAH [a 19th century Islamic magazine to resume publishing in Egypt shortly with the first editorial by President as-Sadat] and the newspaper AL-MANAR, because both are linked to the Islamic idea as defined Jamal ad-Din al-Afghani, namely to resist colonialism and backwardness and to call for freedom and social justice.

But AL-YASAR AL-ISLAMI, Dr Hasan Hanafi asserts, concentrates on the question of discrimination in the one Islamic nation between rich and poor, strong and weak, oppressor and oppressed, those who have everything and those who have nothing and those who exist and those who do not exist. Dr Hanafi adds: Our nation is the same as was seen by Al-Afghani: rulers and ruled, leaders and peoples. Since the tragedy lies in the presence of the first party and the absence of the second, AL-YASAR AL-ISLAMI concentrates on the second party, expresses the views of the oppressed silent majority of the Islamic masses, defends the people's interests, takes the side of the poor against the rich, supports the weak against the strong and looks at the people as equal with no preference to one over another except on the basis of piety and good work.

BEGIN, AS-SADAT TO MEET IN OFIRA ON 4 JUN

TA281104 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will meet in Ofira next week at Mr Begin's suggestion. This was reported a few minutes ago by the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. The announcement said that Mr Begin had asked Minister Ari'el Sharon, who recently visited Egypt, to suggest to President as-Sadat that he again meet with the Israeli prime minister. As-Sadat expressed his readiness. This morning the prime minister telephoned the Eygptian president to work out the details and, to repeat, it was agreed between them that the meeting will take place in a week--next Thursday [4 June] in Ofira. No additional details are yet available.

BEGIN MEETS WITH HABIB; HABIB LEAVES FOR U.S.

Begin Statement

TA271205 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1155 GMT 27 May 81

[From the Red Telephone Program]

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of Philip Habib's conversation with the prime minister this morning, our political correspondent Gad Becker reports that so far no progress has been marked in the political process aimed at preventing a crisis in Lebanon and that apparently there is some disappointment over the effectiveness of the role played by Saudi Arabia in this respect in the last few days. Here are excerpts of what Prime Minister Menahem Begin told reporters at the end of the meeting with Habib:

[Begin recording] [Begin] The Syrians have been maneuvering in all sorts of ways. They have been recruiting soldiers and have already recruited tens of thousands of their reserve soldiers. They have strengthened their missile alignment in the last 24 hours, even though not by much, but they nevertheless strengthened it. They have issued very noisy and flashy declarations and have sworn not to remove the missiles. We have read all this, heard about all this, and react coolly to this.

[Unidentified correspondent] Would you, sir, say that there has been a worsening in the situation?

[Begin] No substantive change has occurred, but of course, if they recruit the army and move missiles--this is certainly a worsening. [end recording]

Habib Departs Israel

TA271408 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 May 81

[Excerpt] Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib departed for Washington a short while ago for consultations. At the airport he announced he will return to the region next week. This is reported by our correspondent Dan Eshel.

Begin Message to Reagan

TA280756 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0750 GMT 28 May 81

[From the Red Telephone Program]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan through envoy Philip Habib. In the message, Israel expresses its compliance with his [not further specified] request to proceed with the political process despite the exacerbation in the conflict. The midday press, which reports this, adds that in his conversation with envoy Habib yesterday an hour before he departed for Washington, Prime Minister Menahem Begin promised him that Israel would not regard his return to the United States as a failure of his mission, but rather another step in the diplomatic efforts to solve the conflict.

BEGIN NOTES LIMITED NUMBER OF RESERVES CALLED UP

TA280611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 May 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that thanks to the peace treaty with Egypt Israel has not had to call up reserve soldiers on a large scale in view of the tension in the north. Speaking at an election rally in Rehovot, Begin said that not even one unit was called up, and all told only hundreds of reserve troops were called up.

CHIEF OF STAFF INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, SYRIA

TA271950 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan says the Syrian Army's preparations largely deviate from routine activity and that he wishes we knew what they mean by this. The chief of staff says the Syrians may aim at a war of attrition or at activating the terrorists with the cover of the Syrian Army. Chief of Staff Eytan says the IDF has adopted the necessary measures and will adopt further measures as necessary. The chief of staff also says that the IDF will treat the Libyan soldiers who aid the terrorists in Lebanon as if they were terrorists in the full sense of the word. The chief of staff says this in a special interview granted to our military correspondent Dan Semama.

[Begin videotape] [Eytan] In our estimate events on the Syrian side are preparations which deviate from routine of peace or routine of cease-fire.

[Question] In your opinion, do the Syrians aspire to conduct a war or a war of attrition against Israel or do they want to activate the terrorists against Israel?

[Answer] I would very much like to know what the Syrians want. However, we cannot know; we can only assess what they are thinking about or what they can do. it is highly probable that the terrorists are the most important reason the Syrians have entered such a state of alert and such a deployment. The Syrians want to realize the promise they gave the terrorists in the past to give the terrorists cover against us. It should be noted that in their penetrations across the border last year they did not manage to inflict on us even a single casualty, not a single victim, in contrast to 40 casualties in the 2 years preceding the period in which we took the initiative.

[Question] You are talking about the terrorists--there are reports of hundreds of Libyan soldiers that are with the terrorists together with SAM-9 missiles and that are helping the terrorists and preparing them for war against Israel. How is Israel preparing in view of this renewed organizing and reinforcement of the terrorists?

[Answer] It is true, there are Libyans in Lebanon. They bring arms from Libya to the terrorists in Lebanon. There are apparently certain positions in Lebanon manned by Libyans. In my opinion we will have to treat them as terrorists.

[Question] Are you talking about the difficult [qashe] security situation between Israel and Syria, between Israel and the terrorists and between Israel and the Syrians in Lebanon?

[Answer] The situation between Israel and terrorists is not difficult or tense. We have not changed our policy. However, during Philip Habib's mission we remained calm. As far as we and the Syrians are concerned, the Syrians are today in a different situation than before. We are following the changes in their country and are preparing ourselves accordingly. I would not define our situation as hard. We have a large strong regular army, well-trained and very well-equipped. To our great benefit we did not heed those experts who had suggested that the army be cut, that training be skipped and that various things be given up. These things are vital today and do us a very good service. However, we should be vigilant, not complacent or nervous. I assume we are vigilant. [end videotape]

UNUSUAL SYRIAN ACTIVITY IN AL-QUNAYTIRAH REPORTED

TA271150 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 May 81 p 1

[Menahem Rahat report]

[Text] A group of Syrian soldiers was yesterday seen looking at the fields of Kibbutz 'Ayn Zivan on the Golan Heights. These fields border on the cease-fire line between Israel and Syria. Members of the kibbutz yesterday went out to work their fields near the abandoned town of Al-Qunaytirah on the other side of the border. As they approached the border on their tractors, they noticed a group of Syrian soldiers standing on the roof of Al-Qunaytirah's gutted movie theater, and observing them from there. The surprised kibbutz members, who are not used to this kind of spectacle, looked around at other roofs of high buildings in Al-Qunaytirah, and on them, too. They discovered Syrian soldiers in new observation posts of the Syrian Army which were recently set up on the roofs of some buildings in the town.

A foreign television crew that was in the area also noticed this and enthusiastically filmed the Syrian soldiers from the fields of 'Ayn Zivan. The Syrian soldiers did not remain indifferent, waving their hands at the television crew. More Syrian soldiers than usual were also seen yesterday in Al-Qunaytirah. All of them wore military police uniforms, apparently in order to disguise them and to present them as engaging solely in policing actions.

KNESSET TO DISCUSS BEGIN COMMITMENT TO LEBANESE

TA281136 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 May 81 p 1

[Parliamentary correspondents report]

[Excerpt] Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Berman responded yesterday to an Alignment request and scheduled an extraordinary Knesset session for next Wednesday [3 June] to discuss the special military commitments that Prime Minister Menahem Begin assumed on behalf of Israel for the benefit of Christians in northern Lebanon.

DAYAN: EGYPT MAY AID SYRIA IN EVENT OF ATTACK

TA271200 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 May 81 p 4

[Dani Nishlis report]

[Text] "If Israel attacks Syria, I am not sure that Egypt will not come to Syria's aid--nor would this be a violation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, because the agreement did not annul the defense pact Egypt has with the other Arab states." This was stated yesterday by MK Moshe Dayan, head of the Telem list, in a lecture he delivered to students at Haifa University.

Regarding the agreements signed with Egypt, Dayan added that the country had indeed pledged to remain neutral, but only if Israel were attacked. "A military operation aimed against Israel will not be considered a casus belli by Egypt," Dayan said. "However, should Israel decide to occupy southern Lebanon, or other Arab areas, the possibility must be taken into account that Egypt will in fact join a war against Israel."

In Dayan's estimation, Israel will not launch an all-out war against Syria but will regard itself free to strike at the terrorists in southern Lebanon. At the same time, Dayan stressed, "the peace agreement with Egypt will be preserved, despite the crisis."

LIBYA

JANA NOTES SAUDIS' 'OBSTINATE ATTITUDE' ON PRICING

LD271550 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Geneva, 27 May (JANA)--OPEC conference concluded its work after a closed meeting lasting four hours last night.

The conference put a freeze on present prices, between 36 and 41 dollars a barrel, for another six months. It also decided to reduce oil production by 10 percent as from June.

The Saudi oil minister refused to raise Saudi oil prices, at 32-36 dollars a barrel the lowest within OPEC, and also refused to reduce its production as decided.

Thus, the Saudi Government challenges the wishes of OPEC countries which ask for higher prices and lower production.

This opposition causes the Saudi Government to lose 40 million dollars per day.

OPEC countries have criticized the obstinate attitude of the Saudis which only serves the interests of the Western industrial companies.

SUDAN

'OFFICIAL SOURCE' ON WITHDRAWAL OF ENVOY TO SYRIA

JN271136 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May (SUNA)--An official source announced here today that Sudan's decision to withdraw its ambassador from Syria was in response to Syria's announcement that it would not send an ambassador to the Sudan.

It is worth mentioning that since the term of office of the last Syrian ambassador in Khartoum expired in late 1978, Syria has not appointed an ambassador. Moreover, the Syrian charge d'affaires is not in Khartoum at present.

The source said that the antagonism of the Syrian regime toward Sudan and its people dates back to the presence of Sudanese troops within the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], who were carrying out their role in accordance with the Arab League resolutions. However, the Syrians, who had become involved in the war in Lebanon and turned into an occupation army, were dissatisfied with the clear stand of the Sudanese forces. This resulted in disturbances against these forces when they were carrying out their tasks, prompting Sudan to withdraw these forces, particularly after the ADF became devoid of their real meaning, as did the other Arab countries, and Al-Asad's forces remained alone in Lebanon.

Furthermore, since the presence of Syrian forces, which number about 22,000, has swallowed up all the Arab aid given to Syria to help it remain steadfast in the face of Israel. Al-Asad resorted to Al-Qadhdhafi, who is known to pay in exchange for certain conditions. It is made clear through a study of circumstances that one of the conditions to which Al-Asad agreed was to resort to severing relations with Sudan.

Sudan was very patient toward the belligerence of the terrorist 'Alawite ruling regime in Syria in order to preserve Arab solidarity. However, that sectarian regime has not and will not confront Israel, but persists in opening marginal fronts. Sometimes, it begins a sectarian war in Lebanon, and at others it chases a woman in Bonn and kills and tracks down young men in Paris.

The fear of the Syrian regime has reached the extent of killing individuals who were opposed to it previously but who no longer deal in politics, as was the case with Salah al-Bitar, one of the founders of the Ba'th Party in the name of which Al-Asad rules.

Therefore, the regimes in Syria and Libya are alike in every respect. They are agents of Moscow, occupy the lands of others in Lebanon and Chad and track down innocent children, women and young men in European capitals.

LIBYA ACCUSED OF ATTACK ON SUDANESE EMBASSY

JN271143 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May (SUNA)--Foreign Ministry reports have confirmed that none of the personnel of the Sudanese Embassy in Beirut were harmed as a result of the shelling of the embassy with rockets. The reports add that all the members of the Sudanese community are well.

Sudan decided today to recall the Sudanese Embassy staff from Beirut since the security situation does not help these personnel to carry out their tasks.

According to available proof, it now seems that Libya participated with other sides in implementing the plot of shelling the Sudanese, Egyptian and U.S. Embassies.

Some news agencies have reported that Libyan soldiers, whose numbers are estimated to be between 200 and 400, have entered Lebanon from Syria. The reports add that these soldiers are armed with antiaircraft guns of the (ZU-22) type, Katyusha (BM-21) rocket launchers, grad surface-to-surface missiles and 130-mm artillery guns, all of which are Soviet-made.

The news agencies add that a convoy of 54 transport vehicles also arrived in Lebanon from Syria last Thursday night. These vehicles were carrying heavy artillery pieces and Libyan soldiers and arms.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON EMBASSY

JN271847 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May (SUNA)--At its meeting today under the chairmanship of Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the National People's Assembly condemned the reckless attack on the Sudanese Embassy in Beirut. It also condemned the anti-Sudanese policy pursued by the Libyan regime.

The Assembly declared its support for President Numayri's initiative calling for Arab solidarity and for the steps taken by Sudan and Egypt to achieve complete integration.

The Assembly, which is the country's legislative authority, stressed the need to strengthen the domestic front and to leave no loopholes for enemy activities.

The Assembly called on legislative councils in the Arab world to work for Arab solidarity so as to cope with future challenges, especially Israel's increasing designs and threats against the Arab nation.